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1:12:50 (important part + goes into
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NEWS | NATION

*** Daily News Sunday, Sept. 9, 2007 13

Studies: Microchip induces tumors in mice

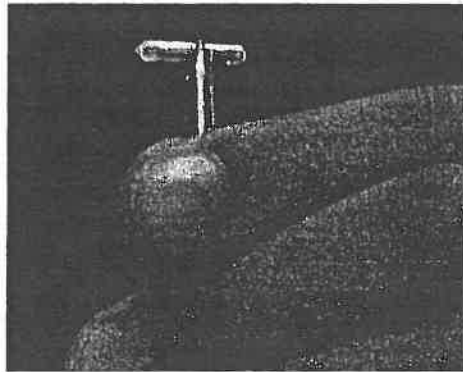
BY TODD LEWAN
ASSOCIATED PRESS

When the U.S. Food and Drug Administration approved implanting microchips in humans, the manufacturer said it would save lives, letting doctors scan the tiny transponders to access patients' medical records almost instantly. The FDA found "reasonable assurance" the device was safe, and a sub-agency even called it one of 2005's top "innovative technologies."

But neither the company nor the regulators publicly mentioned this: A series of veterinary and toxicology studies, dating to the mid-1990s, stated that chip implants had "induced" malignant tumors in some lab mice and rats.

Leading cancer specialists reviewed the research for The Associated Press and, while cautioning that animal test results do not necessarily apply to humans, said the findings troubled them. Some said they would not allow family members to receive implants, and all urged further research before the glass-encased transponders are widely implanted in people.

To date, about 2,000 radio frequency identification, or RFID, chips have been implanted in humans worldwide, according to VeriChip Corp. The company, which sees a target market of 45 million Americans for its medical monitoring chips, insists the devices are safe.



Steve Mitchell / Associated Press file

A VeriChip microchip held in a pair of tweezers is displayed in Boca Raton, Fla., in this 2002 file photo. Proponents say the chips, when implanted in people, offer security and medical identification benefits. Detractors worry that abuse of the chips will eliminate personal privacy in the digital age.

"We stand by our implantable products which have been approved by the FDA and/or other U.S. regulatory authorities," said Scott Silverman, chairman and chief executive officer of the Delray Beach, Fla. company.

Management was "not aware of any studies

that have resulted in malignant tumors" in laboratory animals, but he added that millions of pets have been implanted with microchips, without reports of significant problems.

The FDA also stands by its approval of the technology, but declined repeated AP requests to specify what studies it reviewed before approving the implants.

Also making no mention of the findings on animal tumors was a June report by the ethics committee of the American Medical Association, which touted the benefits of implantable RFID devices.

Had committee members reviewed, or even been aware of, the literature on cancer in chipped animals?

No, said Dr. Steven Stack, an AMA board member.

Published in veterinary and toxicology journals between 1996 and 2006, the studies found that lab mice and rats injected with microchips sometimes developed subcutaneous "sarcomas" — malignant tumors, most of them encasing the implants.

Still, specialists at some preeminent cancer institutions said the findings raised red flags.

"There's no way in the world, having read this information, that I would have one of those chips implanted in my skin, or in one of

my family members," said Dr. Robert Benezra, head of the Cancer Biology Genetics Program at the Memorial Sloan-Kettering Cancer Center in New York.

Before humans are implanted on a large scale, he said, testing should be done on larger animals, such as dogs or monkeys. Sarcomas are life-threatening, he said, "and given the preliminary animal data, it looks to me that there's definitely cause for concern."

Dr. George Demetri, director of the Center for Sarcoma and Bone Oncology at the Dana-Farber Cancer Institute in Boston, said even though the tumor incidences were "reasonably small," the research underscored "certainly real risks" in RFID implants.

In humans, sarcomas, which strike connective tissues, can range from the highly curable to "tumors that are incredibly aggressive and can kill people in three to six months," he said.

At the Jackson Laboratory in Maine, a leader in mouse genetics research and the initiation of cancer, Dr. Oded Foreman, a forensic pathologist, also reviewed the studies at the AP's request. Noting that control mice, which had received no test chemicals, also developed the cancers, he said: "That might be a little hint that something real is happening here."

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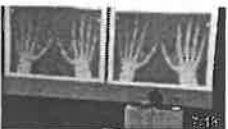
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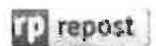
Nathan

Fossil Fuels

Published on August 31st, 2013 | by Nathan



Drinking water from fracking waste? Almost sounds too good to be true, right? Or perhaps more like a headline from *The Onion*? Researchers are now proposing a very questionable solution to freshwater scarcity in the water-poor regions of the world — simply take the extremely toxic wastewater produced by hydraulic fracturing and put it through an imperfect purification/desalination process. Mmmm. Sounds good, doesn't it?



Sort of makes you wonder where the funding is coming from.

The proposed method — known as gas hydrate desalination — works by producing gas hydrates from the wastewater and then allowing the hydrates to separate. It isn't a new technique, but the researchers have apparently made some improvements to earlier methods.



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Group of strong antibiotics linked to kidney injury

Tue, Jun 4 2013

By Kathryn Doyle

NEW YORK (Reuters Health) - Men taking drugs in the fluoroquinolone family were twice as likely to suffer serious kidney problems as men not taking the powerful antibiotics in a new study.

When the participants, aged 40 to 85 years old, also took blood pressure medications known as ACE inhibitors, their kidney risk rose to nearly five times that of similar men not taking fluoroquinolones, which include ciprofloxacin, levofloxacin and moxifloxacin.

Because they work on a "broad spectrum" of bacterial species, fluoroquinolones are widely used to treat intestinal, urinary tract and respiratory infections - often when other drugs have failed to work.

"I think that in some cases older men will (still) need these types of antibiotics," said Dr. James L. Pirkle, Jr., a nephrologist at Wake Forest Baptist Health in Winston-Salem, North Carolina, who was not involved with the study.

"However, this paper is important to raise awareness that in certain populations, providers need to be aware of the increased risks," Pirkle told Reuters Health by email.

The list of fluoroquinolones' known possible side effects includes irregular heartbeat, insomnia and allergic reactions. But kidney failure is only noted as a rare event, so prescribers don't usually take it into account, according to the U.S. and Canadian team who published the new findings in the Canadian Medical Association Journal.

To see how common serious kidney injuries are in people taking fluoroquinolones, the researchers compared 1,292 men admitted to hospitals with acute kidney injuries to 12,651 similar men hospitalized without that particular diagnosis, and looked at who was taking or had recently taken a fluoroquinolone drug.

They found that 8 percent of the patients with kidney injury were currently taking the drugs when admitted to the hospital compared to 4 percent in the other group.

One in 1,500 people given a fluoroquinolone had acute kidney injury, twice as many as those not taking the drug.

But the absolute risk for any individual is still small, the researchers noted - about six to seven cases of acute kidney injury per 10,000 patients taking a fluoroquinolone per year.

Most people who take the drugs will probably not experience kidney problems, said one of the study's authors, Mahyar Etminan of the University of British Columbia in Vancouver.

"However, if you look at it more globally, if around 40 million people take these drugs annually this may translate to thousands of patients getting acute kidney injury solely due to fluoroquinolone use," Etminan told Reuters Health.

Indeed, about 40 million prescriptions for fluoroquinolones are dispensed annually in the U.S., Etminan said. That may be more than necessary because evidence indicates they are sometimes used when other, safer antibiotics would also work or when the ailment is actually a virus, which does not respond to antibiotics.

"There are a number of antibiotics available to treat infections, and each has a different spectrum of organisms that it is able to kill as well as different side effects," said Rachel Eyler, an assistant clinical professor in the School of Pharmacy at the University of Connecticut in Storrs.

"In some cases there are alternatives, and in other cases a fluoroquinolone may be the best choice for a patient," Eyler, who was not involved in the study, told Reuters Health by email.

To get the same potency with different antibiotics, "sometimes it may be necessary to prescribe two antibiotics (vs one fluoroquinolone) which may be less convenient for a patient and hence why MDs prefer a fluoroquinolone," Etminan told Reuters Health by email.

Due to the nature of the study, it's impossible to say how severe the kidney problems were or what other factors may have been at work in each patient, like dehydration, that could have caused the kidney problems, Pirkle noted.

But he agrees that doctors currently prescribing fluoroquinolones may not be as concerned about kidney problems in older men as they should be.

"Older men who may have failed on other antibiotics and have a serious infections may require this but most men (or women) probably don't need to be put on these antibiotics" until safer options have been tried, Etminan said.

SOURCE: bit.ly/ZIHFhj Canadian Medical Association Journal, online June 3, 2013.

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Harmful Side Effects of Antibiotics

By Lisa Collier Cool

Sep 24, 2012

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Antibiotics can save lives by fighting bacterial infections, but that's not to say that they're without risk. These strong medicines can have some alarming side effects, resulting in thousands of lawsuits each year.

What kinds of side effects do antibiotics cause?

It's been estimated that over 140,000 emergency visits are made to the hospital each year due to antibiotic-associated side effects, with allergic reactions being the most common. "Minimizing unnecessary antibiotic use by even a small percentage could significantly reduce the immediate and direct risks of drug-related adverse events in individual patients," a 2007 study showed.

Charlie Oral fluoroquinolones are the most popular antibiotics, and include Cipro (ciprofloxacin), Levaquin (levofloxacin) and Avelox (moxifloxacin). But taking these antibiotics increases your risk of developing a retinal detachment by five times compared with nonusers, a recent study shows.

In 2006, consumer group Public Citizen petitioned the FDA to place a notice on fluoroquinolones warning of the potential for tendon ruptures. "The tendon that most frequently ruptures is the Achilles tendon, which causes sudden and severe pain, swelling and bruising, and difficulty walking," a press release states, adding that ruptures have also occurred in the rotator cuff, biceps, hand and thumb. "One theory is that fluoroquinolones are toxic to tendon fibers and may decrease blood supply in tendons that already have a limited blood supply," the press release reads. It was not until 2008 that the FDA began to require a warning label



In addition, a Swedish study found that these types of antibiotics can sometimes cause peripheral neuropathy, a condition that causes numbness and pain in the hands and feet, although the number of reported cases was small.

Another dangerous antibiotic, azithromycin, was recently shown to nearly triple cardiovascular mortality compared to the rate for a group of patients who didn't take the antibiotic. Although deaths associated with the use of this antibiotic are rare, the highest rate was seen in people with cardiovascular disease.

Heart Attack Warning Signs You Should Watch Out For

Are antibiotics used too often?

Antibiotics are overused "by lazy doctors who are trying to kill a fly with an automatic weapon," pharmacological epidemiologist Mahyar Etiman told the New York Times.

For example, antibiotics don't work against colds, flu, and viral infections such as bronchitis, but are sometimes prescribed anyway.

Sore throats are often prescribed antibiotics, but according to updated (voluntary) guidelines released by the Infectious Disease Society of America (IDSA) this week, a sore throat is likely to be a virus, not strep throat.

The Most Addictive Prescription Drugs on the Market

Antibiotic Resistance

Overusing antibiotics for viruses or conditions in which they're not required can lead to antibiotic resistance, which means that these powerful drugs become less effective at fighting the bacteria they're actually intended to treat. In fact, infectious organisms adapt to the antibiotics, developing new strains of bacteria that are immune to it.

In the example of strep throat, the revised IDSA guidelines recommend penicillin or amoxicillin for treatment, since strep is becoming resistant to broader-spectrum (and pricier) antibiotics which were commonly prescribed in the past, including azithromycin and other macrolides.

A scarier drug-resistant bacteria is *methicillin-resistant Staphylococcus aureus*, or MRSA, also known as staph infection. There is a clear association between antibiotics and MRSA, a 2007 review of 76 studies with close to 25,000 patients showed. MRSA often causes mild skin infections, but it can also be more serious and even life threatening. The infection is hard to treat, and can even infect the lungs, bloodstream heart valve, bones, joints, or lungs.

All of these videos are on You Tube

watch, learn, and spread the word, and take action

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More Communities Succeed in Eliminating Water Fluoridation, While Chemical Industry Raises the Stakes

September 08, 2013 | 274,517 views

By Dr. Mercola

After generations of misleading propaganda about the benefits of water fluoridation, the truth is finally getting some traction.

According to the former EPA risk assessment scientist, Dr. William Hirzy, water fluoridation still remains a government policy because of "institutional inertia [and] embarrassment among government agencies that have been promoting this stuff as safe."

Indeed, contrary to popular belief, the science clearly demonstrates that fluoride is a toxic chemical that accumulates in your tissues over time, wreaks havoc with enzymes, and produces a number of serious adverse health effects, including neurological and endocrine dysfunction. Children are particularly at risk for adverse effects of overexposure.

Yet despite the scientific evidence *against* the practice, the United States lags far behind other nations in acknowledging the mistake and ending this tragic "public health" measure. As usual, the big lie must continue to protect faith in long term public health policies and agencies.

As a result, individual communities around the US have taken up the fight to end water fluoridation in their own local areas. Today, Dr. Paul Connett and I are pleased to report a number of victories, both in the US and abroad.

An 8-Year Long Fight Ends in Victory, Yet Trouble Brews

Dr. Paul Connett, PhD, a chemist and executive director of the Fluoride Action Network (FAN), is a recognized leader in the fluoride education movement, spearheading the organized efforts to remove fluoride from our water supply in the US and elsewhere.

One of the organization's past victories took eight years to secure, namely the phasing out of sulfuryl fluoride, which is a toxic fumigant. In the face of defeat, the chemical industry has resorted to blatant political maneuvers to protect their toxic income stream.

"This was a major victory for us after [FAN] was formed in 2000. It took us eight years to get the EPA Pesticide Division to accept our objections to the use of sulfuryl fluoride by Dow AgroSciences as a fumigant on food," Dr. Connett explains.

The idea of using sulfuryl fluoride as a food fumigant was extremely worrying as it not only leaves toxic residues on food, but can be lethal to humans in its pure gas form—the form in which it is applied to the food. According to Dr. Connett, people have died during the application of the fumigant.

When applied to food, it breaks down into free fluoride. Many American children are already heavily overexposed to fluoride, so this added source of exposure can only worsen matters. (Organic foods do not permit its use.)

FAN argued that the Food Quality Protection Act requires companies who want to market a pesticide to show that the cumulative dose—meaning the dose that will end up on the food as residues, *plus* already existing exposure from other sources—will not exceed the safe reference dose. Dr. Connett explains what happened in this case:

"We were able to show, very easily, that millions of children are already exceeding the safe reference dose of fluoride from a combination of sources – in the water, toothpaste and other dental products, pollution, and so on. No way should the EPA allow Dow to add more fluoride to the food supply."

Story at-a-glance

Fluoride is a toxic substance that accumulates in your tissues over time, wreaks havoc with enzymes, and produces a number of serious adverse health effects, including neurological and endocrine dysfunction

A rider in the 2014 House Appropriations Bill would cut back a lot of EPA's work and prevent the agency from phasing out sulfuryl fluoride, a toxic fumigant used on food. Take action now to stop this rider!

Despite being severely outspent by fluoride proponents, citizens in Wichita, Kansas and Portland, Oregon voted NO on water fluoridation; Connecticut, South Carolina, and Minnesota are looking at lifting mandatory fluoridation rulings

There are now 15 regional councils in Queensland, Australia that are either stopping fluoridation or refusing to start. Hamilton, NZ also recently voted to stop water fluoridation

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BAWSCA's Objectives for Long-Term Water Supply Decisions

- Goal: A reliable supply of high quality water at a fair price.
- For making sound business decisions and policy, add the words, with certainty.
- BAWSCA does not assume its members' needs will be met by San Francisco.
- Consider Lincoln:
 - "The best way to predict your future is to create it."
 - "Things may come to those who wait, but only the things left behind by those who hustle."



Through Action or Inaction, CCSF Has Created Uncertainty for BAWSCA Member Agencies

- No commitment to meet their future water needs
- Reserved the claim that it has no obligation to do so
- Limited deliveries to 184 MGD through at least 2018
- Adopted Level of Service goal of rationing up to 20% system-wide during droughts, which translates to billions of dollars in economic losses
- Not yet able to meet adopted drought Level of Service goal
- May or may not continue serving San José & Santa Clara



Published on Monday, August 19, 2002 by CommonDreams.org

Alzheimer's in America: The Aluminum-Phosphate Fertilizer Connection

by Lynn Landes

Americans are losing their minds to Alzheimer's disease. It's an epidemic. And it's not typical of what's going on in the rest of the world.

The World Health Organization (WHO) estimates that there are 18 million people with Alzheimer's. Over 4 1/2 million Americans have the disease. We account for 25% of all Alzheimer's cases, even though we represent only 4.6% of the world's population. Europe is experiencing half our rate of disease. For Americans over 85 years of age, 50% are thought to have Alzheimer's.

The question is, "Why?"

Alzheimer's was first discovered in 1906. It is not a part of normal aging, says the National Institutes of Health (NIH). The NIH contends that the cause of Alzheimer's is "not known." They say, "Prior theories regarding the accumulation of aluminum, lead, mercury, and other substances in the brain have been disproved."

Don't believe that. Federal agencies have a talent for not finding environmental causes for many diseases. They live by the motto, "Do not seek and thou shall not find." Genetic triggers and lifestyle choices get the research dollars for pretty obvious reasons - their findings don't hurt polluters' profits.

The world's scientists and government researchers have not taken aluminum off the scientific table as a causal factor in Alzheimer's. Research scientists with the International Aluminum Network report, "Aluminum has been implicated ...as a potential factor or cofactor in the Alzheimer's syndrome, as well as in the etiopathogenesis of other neurodegenerative diseases, Parkinsonism, Amyotrophic Lateral Sclerosis and other diseases." That's a mouthful, but you get the picture.

Initially, it was thought that aluminum might be the sole cause of Alzheimer's. Persons with Alzheimer's have been found to experience increased absorption of aluminum in the brain, as well as exhibit densities of senile plaques and neurofibrillary tangles. However, there are reports that suggest plaques and tangles do not always signify Alzheimer's, and vice versa.

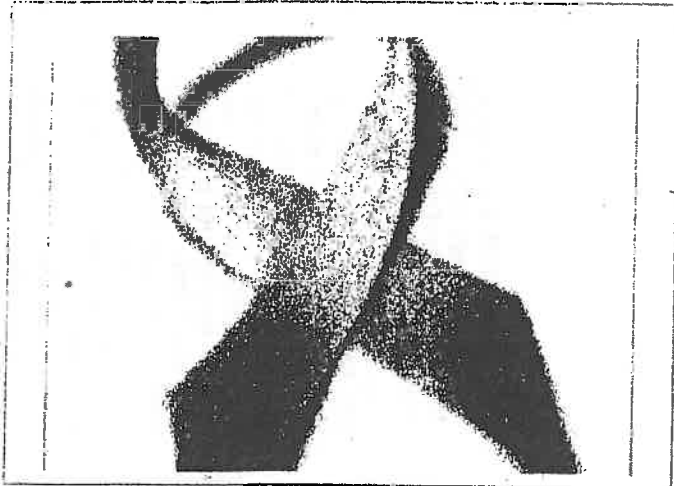
Further clouding the issue are patients on kidney dialysis machines. They are unable to excrete aluminum, plus they may also be treated with medicines that include aluminum. However, reports say that dialysis patients don't develop Alzheimer's, although they can develop dialysis dementia if the equipment doesn't filter out aluminum. And therein lies a clue.

The process of kidney dialysis requires very purified, non-fluoridated water. What does this mean? Perhaps fluoride is aluminum's partner-in-crime.

In 1998 Julie Varner and two colleagues published research on the effects of aluminum-fluoride and sodium-fluoride on the nervous system of rats. They concluded, "Chronic administration of aluminum-fluoride and sodium-fluoride in the drinking water of rats resulted in distinct morphological alterations of the brain, including the effects on neurons and cerebrovasculature." In layman's terms, it looked like fluoride and aluminum could cause Alzheimer's.

That was not a definitive study, but they may have been onto something. Aluminum is in our drinking

Toxin In Food Linked To Breast Cancer



Reported by: CBS 42 News

Email: web@cbs42.com

Published: 3/19 9:20 am

Updated: 3/19 9:23 am

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BIRMINGHAM, Ala. (WIAT)-

Our known healthy foods may be doing more harm than good! An extremely toxic metal commonly distributed in the environment and found in many farm fertilizers has been found to increase the risk of breast cancer.

Dietary Cadmium, usually occurring at a low concentration naturally, has scientists concerned that the increasing contamination of farmland due to use of fertilizers and atmospheric deposition will lead to higher uptake in plants.

"Because of a high accumulation in agricultural crops, the main sources of dietary cadmium are bread and other cereals, potatoes, root crops and vegetables. In general, these foods are also considered healthy," Agneta Akesson, Ph.D., associate professor at Karolinska Institute in Sweden, said.

A current study used a food frequency questionnaire to measure the dietary cadmium exposure in 55,987 women for over 12 years. During follow-up, 2,112 incidences of breast cancer were recorded, 1,626 of them estrogen receptor positive and 290 were estrogen receptor negative cases.

Cadmium consumption was divided into three groups; the highest level was compared to the lowest level of exposure. A higher exposure to cadmium through diet was linked with a 21 percent increase in breast cancer. Even more shocking, the increased risk among normal weight and lean women was 27 percent! Both estrogen receptor positive and negative tumors had the same risk increase of about 23 percent.

We Recommend

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[?]

Water additive draws fire

Agency collects information on chloramine's effects

BY LIZ HARRISON
DAILY NEWS STAFF REPORTER

The San Francisco Health Department is collecting information from residents on possible side effects of an added chemical in Bay Area water supplies.

About 35 people quizzed — and sometimes confronted — guest speakers from the Health Department and the San Francisco Public Utilities Commission at a Beresford-Hillsdale Neighborhood Association meeting last night in San Mateo on chloramine, a chemical used to sanitize area water supplies.

"I'm miserable. I itch. I get rashes," said Elisabeth Schierling, a San Mateo resident. "I can only shower once a week."

Before chloramine was introduced to the water, Schierling said she would swim three times a week at a local pool.

But because of her skin irritations her doctor told her to stop.

"It's a pretty miserable life," Schierling said. "There are lots of people around that are itching."

Chloramine is used worldwide to disinfect water, said June Weintraub, epidemiologist with the San Francisco Health Department. It kills pathogens. It also stays in the water longer than chlorine, which was used in the local water supply until February, so it sanitizes a larger area, Weintraub said.

Last major district

The San Francisco Public Utilities Commission, which provides water to 2.4 million Bay Area residents, was the last major water district in the state to convert to chloramine, said Lillian Brown, public relations officer for the

San Francisco agency. Chlorine is itself known to cause bladder cancer, rectal cancer and "adverse reproductive outcomes," Weintraub said.

Questionnaire

When confronted with Schierling's side effects, Weintraub asked Schierling and others to fill out a questionnaire describing the rash so that her symptoms can be assessed to see if chloramine is at fault.

"We are aware that people have these concerns," Weintraub said. "We don't want to miss something important. We need to determine the commonalities between the exposures and the symptoms."

"We have to balance the known and the unknown risks of chloramine," Weintraub said.

22 THE EXAMINER Friday-Sunday, October 8-10, 2004

Study links breast cancer

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A. T. O. W. N.

Dr. Winn Parker

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The report, "State of Evidence 2004: What is the Connection Between the Environment and Breast Cancer?" published by the Breast Cancer Fund and Breast Cancer Action, details evidence from 21 research studies published since February 2003 that link toxins in the environment to breast cancer.

According to the report, the number of breast cancer diagno-

ses in the United States tripled from 60 years ago, and parallels the increased use of chemicals in the environment.

In addition, new research published in the reports has found that chlorinated chemicals, used in drinking water and swimming pools, ethylene glycol methyl ether, a solvent used in paint varnish and fuel additives, and postmenopausal hormone replacement therapy were all shown to increase breast cancer in new studies released by the report.

The report also drew parallels between radiation, found in X-rays, CT scans, fluoroscopy and nuclear fallout from 1950s and 1960s